





REORGANIZATION

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REORGANIZATION.

1. Do not reorganize your society, unless there is *real* need of it. If almost all your members are faithful to their vows, let the Lookout Committee see the few delinquents, and in a kindly and brotherly spirit bring them back to their duty, or show them the harm they are doing while active members, and induce them to leave the active membership, if they are incorrigible.

In most societies there is no trouble, if we may believe the glowing and enthusiastic accounts that come to us at the central office, from pastors and workers all over the country. It is very rarely indeed that we hear of any serious trouble, or of any society that has been given up.

So far as we can learn from statistics, more churches and Sunday schools, organized within the past seven years, have died, than Societies of Christian Endeavor. There is a *vitality* about these organizations that is particularly gratifying. They are doing a better and better work every month. As the principles are better understood the importance of the element of obligation is also understood, and the fact that the Society was born and exists to bring the young people into the church and keep them at work for the church, has vastly increased the confidence of pastors and churches in the organization.

Still it would be strange if there were not some cases of partial failure in accomplishing the end proposed, *i. e.*, in the words of the constitution, "to promote an earnest Christian

life among the members, and to make them more useful in the service of God." Anything less than the highest success is partial failure; and many societies which are doing a good work might do a much better one.

What is the trouble?

a. It may be that some of the active members, in the first place, joined too hastily, not fully understanding what they were doing, or realizing their obligations. Then let all the active members sign the Reorganization Card, renewing their vows.

b. It may be that a spirit of coldness pervades the whole church, which the young people have caught, and that some who signed the constitution originally in good faith no longer keep it. If earnest words of counsel do not avail, apply the same remedy as above, and have the active membership consist of *active* members who have some little heroism and Christ-likeness in their characters.

c. It may be that the young lady members have been discouraged from taking part in the meetings, or through some false ideas of modesty have been willing to do nothing but repeat verses. Then let it be understood that in Societies of Christian Endeavor there are *equal rights* and *equal responsibilities* and *equal privileges for all*.

d. It may be that the pastor and older church-members, not understanding the organization, have been suspicious of the society, and have unintentionally or otherwise weakened it. Do not show any resentment, which will only make matters worse, but show by loyalty and faithfulness to every duty in the church, that the society is no separate organization, but is a training school, which exists simply to make you more useful in the church. So far as you can, obliterate the line between "old and young."

e. It may be that, while still retaining the name Christian

Endeavor, the society has got switched off on some side-track of "Social Endeavor" or "Literary Endeavor" or "Musical Endeavor" or "Debating Society Endeavor." If so, get it back on the main track again, and remember that the *religious features*, as embodied in the prayer-meeting and the committee-work, must be paramount.

2. If you have omitted the prayer-meeting pledge from your constitution, or have so weakened it that it means very little, or have omitted the consecration-meeting, and, in consequence, find that there is little vitality in your society, and that the meetings are languishing, then change your constitution, until it contains the main features of the Model Constitution which is adopted by nine-tenths of the societies throughout the world, and which contains this prayer-meeting clause: "Every active member is expected to attend every weekly prayer-meeting, unless detained by some absolute necessity, and to take some part, however slight, in every meeting." "Absolute necessity" the revised Model Constitution defines as "some reason which the young disciple can conscientiously give to the Master, Jesus Christ, for non-attendance or non-participation."

Then when you are sure that all the members understand the constitution, and know what they are doing, give out cards like the following, and have for your active members only those who are willing to sign them conscientiously:

Active Membership Pledge.

TRUSTING in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise Him that I will try to do whatever He would like to have me do; that I will pray to Him and read the Bible every day, and that just so far as I know how, throughout my whole life, I will try to lead a Christian life. As an active member I also promise to attend every weekly prayer-meeting, and to take some part, aside from singing, in every meeting, unless prevented by some reason which I can conscientiously give to my Master, Jesus

Christ. If I am obliged to be absent from any monthly Consecration-meeting, I will if possible send an excuse for such absence, to the society.

Signed,

Residence,

Date,

3. If your society already has adopted the right constitution, but contains many members who are not faithful, and who are really a hindrance to the spiritual life of all present, then give to every active member the following:

REORGANIZATION CARD.

As an Active Member I Have Promised

1st.—To be present at every meeting, unless detained by some absolute necessity, meaning by this some reason which, with a clear conscience, I can present to my Master, Jesus Christ.

2d.—To take some part in every meeting, aside from singing.

3d.—If absent from the monthly consecration-meeting, to send an excuse to the society.

I hereby renew this covenant with God, and by his grace will fulfil its requirements.

DATED,

SIGNED,

When thou shalt vow a vow unto the Lord thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the Lord thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee.—*Deut. 23: 21.*

Those who will not sign this card *thus drop themselves* from membership, and the active list is thus relieved of unfaithful

ny monthly Con-
excuse for such

ones, and the society, even though reduc ' 'n size, is really
stronger than before.

By this process of reorganization no one, of course, is ex-
cluded from attending the meetings, or from associate member-
ship. In scores of cases this method has worked admirably.

Cards like the above can be printed by each society, or can
be obtained at much lower rates of the United Society of
Christian Endeavor.

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